



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 31, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Minerals Investigation Development Company, Organa Claims, S/055/013, Wayne County, Utah

Date of Inspection: December 13, 2002
Time of Inspection: 10:15-10:25 a.m.
Conditions: Mostly clear, 30's
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

There was no specific reason for the inspection. I was in the area and decided to stop and look at the site.

Getting to the site:

The site that I found is 8.0 miles north of highway 24 on the Factory Butte road west of Hanksville. At this point, there is a flat area west of the road, and the area that was previously inspected by Tony Gallegos was toward the south end of this flat area.

Observations:

After Tony inspected this site in 1998, the Division received a letter from the operator indicating they had not mined in this area for several years but that they had discovered disturbance from an unknown party near their restored area. I was able to find the disturbance Tony found but nothing else. Photo 1 is a view that matches very closely with photos Tony took in both 1996 and 1998. For this reason, I am not completely certain that the area I inspected was the mine for which the Division has a notice of intention.

The surface of the area I found was slightly corrugated but otherwise blended well with surrounding topography (Photos 1 and 2). There is almost no vegetation in this area, so it was impossible to tell the site had been disturbed or how long it had been since it was regraded based on

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vegetation. I was also able to find some evidence of someone digging in the carbonaceous shale (Photo 3), and this may be the samples discussed in the annual report for 2001 (see below).

In my efforts to find this site, I climbed to the tops of some of the hills but could see no other disturbances that appeared to be from a mine. In the annual report for 2001, the operator indicated only a small area had been disturbed during the previous year and that a backhoe had been used to dig and cover seven test holes. From my observations and this report, I conclude that there has been little disturbance and that any disturbance has been graded to blend with surrounding areas.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Before inspecting this site in the future, the Division should contact the operator to get a more precise description of the project location. From the information in the file, I believe I was in the vicinity and that the disturbances were reclaimed as stated in the annual report, but it would be best to positively confirm this belief.

The Division never received a notice of intention directly from the operator but instead received a notice from the Bureau of Land Management which was later deemed to contain all information required by the Division. The operator's name on this notice was Mineral Investigation Development Company, but the name used in the annual report for 2001 is Organa Mineral Products, Inc. The operator may have changed the name of the company, or there might be a new operator. The Division should contact the operator to determine whether a transfer is needed.

jb

Attachment: Photos

cc: Gary Jackson, operator

Buzz Rakow, BLM Hanksville

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ATTACHMENT

Report Date December 31, 2002; Inspection Date December 13, 2002

Photographs

S/055/013, Organa Claims, Mineral Investigation Development Company



Photo 1. View looking toward Factory Butte. This view is nearly the same as in photos Tony Gallegos took in 1996 and 1998. The area shown in Photo 2 is just to the right of the truck on the left side of this photo.



Photo 2. Regraded (corrugated) area., Note how well it blends with surrounding areas.



Photo 3. Exposed carbonaceous shale where it appears someone has been digging recently.